

Chapter 5

THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

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THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

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0501. Precedence.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, while so serving, has the grade of general. In the performance of duties within the Department of the Navy, the Commandant of the Marine Corps takes precedence above all other officers of the Marine Corps, except an officer of the Marine Corps who is serving as Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

0502. Succession.

When there is a vacancy in the office of Commandant of the Marine Corps, or during the absence or disability of the Commandant:

a. the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps shall perform the duties of the Commandant until a successor is appointed or the absence or disability ceases; or

b. if there is a vacancy in the office of the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps or the Assistant Commandant is absent or disabled, unless the President directs otherwise, the most senior officer of the Marine Corps in the Headquarters, Marine Corps, who is not absent or disabled and who is not restricted in the performance of duty shall perform the duties of the Commandant until a successor to the Commandant or the Assistant Commandant is appointed or until the absence or disability of the Commandant or the Assistant Commandant ceases, whichever occurs first.

0503. Statutory Authority and Responsibility of the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

1. Except as otherwise prescribed by law and subject to the statutory authority of the Secretary of the Navy to assign functions, powers and duties, the Commandant of the Marine Corps performs duties under the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of the Navy and is directly responsible to the Secretary.

2. Subject to the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of the Navy, the Commandant of the Marine Corps shall:

a. preside over the Headquarters, Marine Corps

b. transmit the plans and recommendations of the Headquarters, Marine Corps, to the Secretary and advise the Secretary with regard to such plans and recommendations;

c. after approval of the plans or recommendations of the Headquarters, Marine Corps, by the Secretary, act as the agent of the Secretary in carrying them into effect;

d. exercise supervision, consistent with the statutory authority assigned to commanders of unified or specified combatant commands, over such of the members and organizations of the Navy and the Marine Corps as the Secretary determines;

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e. perform the duties prescribed for a member of the Armed Forces Policy Council and other statutory duties; and

f. perform such other military duties, not otherwise assigned by law, as are assigned to the Commandant of the Marine Corps by the President, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of the Navy.

3. The Commandant of the Marine Corps shall also perform the statutory duties prescribed for a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

a. To the extent that such action does not impair the independence of the Commandant of the Marine Corps in the performance of duties as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commandant of the Marine Corps shall inform the Secretary of the Navy regarding military advice rendered by members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on matters affecting the Department of the Navy.

b. Subject to the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of Defense, the Commandant of the Marine Corps shall keep the Secretary of the Navy fully informed of significant military operations affecting the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary of the Navy.

0504. Statutory Authority and Responsibility of the Headquarters, Marine Corps.

1. The Headquarters, Marine Corps, shall furnish professional assistance to the Secretary, the Under Secretary and the Assistant Secretaries of the Navy, and to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

a. Under the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of the Navy, the Headquarters, Marine Corps shall:

(1) subject to Article 0311.1, prepare for such employment of the Marine Corps, and for such recruiting, organizing, supplying, equipping (including those aspects of research and development assigned by the Secretary of the Navy), training, servicing, mobilizing, demobilizing, administering, and maintaining of the Marine Corps, as will assist in the execution of any power, duty or function of the Secretary or the Commandant;

(2) investigate and report upon the efficiency of the Marine Corps and its preparation to support military operations by combatant commands;

(3) prepare detailed instructions for the execution of approved plans and supervise the execution of those plans and instructions;

(4) as directed by the Secretary or the Commandant, coordinate the action of organizations of the Marine Corps; and

(5) perform such other duties, not otherwise assigned by law, as may be prescribed by the Secretary.

2. Except as otherwise specifically prescribed by law, the Headquarters, Marine Corps, shall be organized in such manner, and its members shall perform such duties and have such titles, as the Secretary may prescribe.

0505. Delegated Authority and Responsibility.

1. a. Internal to the administration of the Department of the Navy, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, consistent with the statutory authority assigned to commanders of unified or specified combatant commands, under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, shall command:

(1) the operating forces of the Marine Corps; and

(2) such shore activities as may be assigned by the Secretary.

b. The Commandant shall be responsible to the Secretary of the Navy for the utilization of resources by, and the operating efficiency of, all commands and activities under such command.

2. In addition, the Commandant has the following specific responsibilities:

a. To plan for and determine the needs of the Marine Corps for equipment, weapons or weapons systems, materials, supplies, facilities, maintenance, and supporting services. This responsibility includes the determination of Marine Corps characteristics of equipment and material to be procured or developed, and the training required to prepare Marine Corps personnel for combat. It also includes the operation of the Marine Corps Material Support System.

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b. Subject to guidance from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management), to formulate budget proposals for the Headquarters, Marine Corps, the Operating Forces of the Marine Corps, and other activities and programs as assigned.

c. To develop, in coordination with other military services, the doctrines, tactics and equipment employed by landing forces in amphibious operations.

d. To formulate Marine Corps strategic plans and policies and participate in the formulation of joint and combined strategic plans and policies and related command relationships.

e. To plan for and determine the present and future needs, both quantitative and qualitative, for manpower, including reserve personnel and civilian personnel, of the United States Marine Corps. This includes responsibility for leadership in maintaining a high degree of competence among Marine Corps officer and enlisted personnel and Marine Corps civilian personnel in necessary fields of specialization through education, training and equal opportunities for personal advancement; and for leadership in maintaining the morale and motivation of Marine Corps personnel and the prestige of a career in the Marine Corps.

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